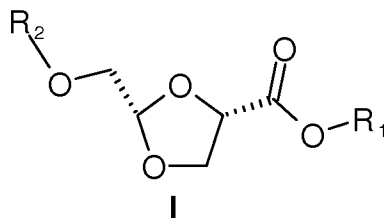


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A process for producing a compound of formula I:



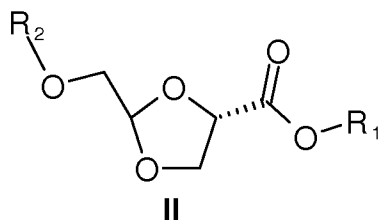
wherein

R₁ is C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkynyl, C₆₋₁₂ aryl, C₃₋₁₀ heterocycle, C₆₋₁₂ aralkyl or C₃₋₁₀ heteroaralkyl, and

R₂ is ~~a hydroxyl protecting group~~ CO-C₁₋₆ alkyl, CO-C₆₋₁₂ aryl, CO-C₁₋₆ alkoxy, CO-C₆₋₁₂ aryloxy, or CO-C₆₋₁₂ arylalkyl;

said process comprising:

- a) subjecting a compound of formula II:

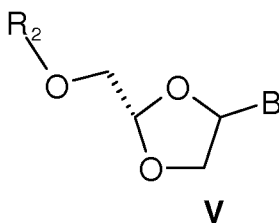


to an enzymatic diastereomeric resolution in the presence of a suitable amount of Pig Liver Esterase enzyme or Porcine Pancreatic Lipase enzyme;

- b) recovering said compound of formula I.

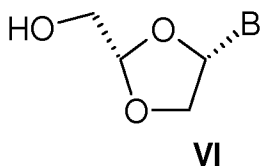
2. (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein R₁ is C₁₋₁₂ alkyl.

3. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 wherein R_2 is CO-C_{1-6} alkyl, ~~CO-C_{6-12} aryl, CO-C_{1-6} alkoxy, CO-C_{6-12} aryloxy, or CO-C_{6-12} arylalkyl.~~
4. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein R_2 is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.
5. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme is Pig Liver Esterase.
6. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme is Porcine Pancreatic Lipase.
7. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, further comprising:
- a) replacing the functional group at position C4 of the compound of formula I to produce a compound of formula V:



wherein B is purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue thereof;

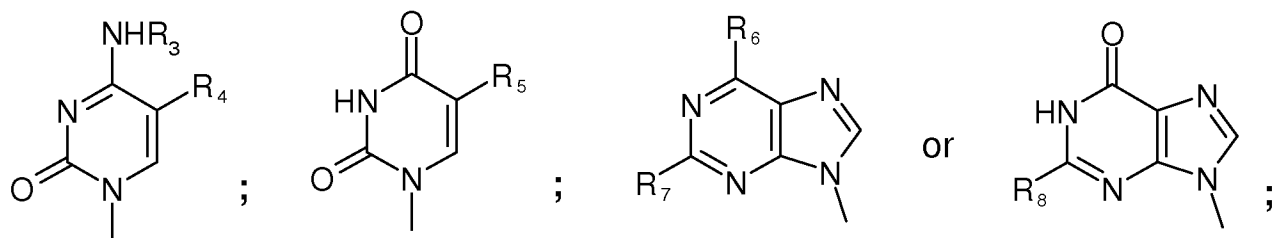
- b) removing the group R_2 of said compound of formula V; and
- c) recovering a compound of formula VI:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 7, wherein

B is:



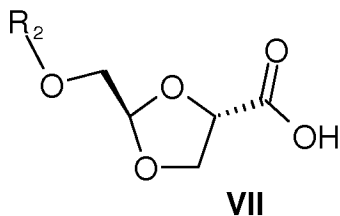
R_3 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} acyl, or CO-R_9 ;

R_9 is H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R_4 and R_5 are each independently H, C_{1-6} alkyl, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide or CF_3 ; and

R_6 , R_7 and R_8 are each independently H, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide, amino, hydroxyl, or C_{3-6} cycloalkylamino.

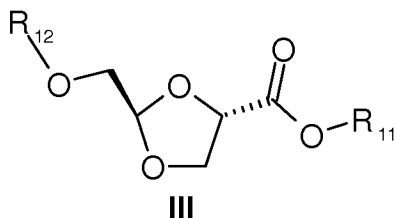
9. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of recovering a compound of formula VII:



10. (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is C_{1-12} alkyl and R_2 is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.

11. (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is methyl and R_2 is benzoyl.

12. (Currently Amended): A process for producing a compound of formula III:



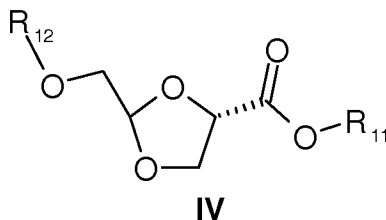
wherein

R₁₁ is C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkynyl, C₆₋₁₂ aryl, C₃₋₁₀ heterocycle, C₆₋₁₂ aralkyl or C₃₋₁₀ heteroaralkyl; and

R₁₂ is ~~a hydroxyl protecting group~~ CO-C₁₋₆ alkyl, CO-C₆₋₁₂ aryl, CO-C₁₋₆ alkoxy, CO-C₆₋₁₂ aryloxy, or CO-C₆₋₁₂ arylalkyl,

said process comprising:

a) subjecting a compound of formula IV:



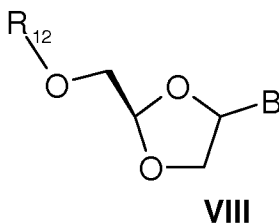
to an enzymatic diastereomeric resolution in the presence of a suitable amount of enzyme, wherein said enzyme is Candida Antarctica "A" lipase, Candida Antarctica "B" lipase, Candida Lypolitica Lipase, or Rhizomucor Miehei Lipase; and

b) recovering said compound of formula III.

13. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein R₁₁ is C₁₋₁₂ alkyl.

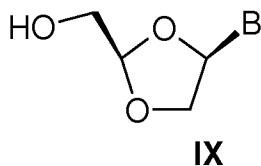
14. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 12, wherein R₁₂ is CO-C₁₋₆ alkyl, ~~CO-C₆₋₁₂ aryl, CO-C₁₋₆ alkoxy, CO-C₆₋₁₂ aryloxy, or CO-C₆₋₁₂ arylalkyl.~~

15. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein R_{12} is CO-C₆₋₁₂ aryl.
16. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Antarctica "A" lipase.
17. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Antarctica "B" lipase.
18. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Lypolitica Lipase.
19. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Rhizomucor Miehei Lipase.
20. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 12, further comprising:
a) replacing the functional group at position C4 of the compound of formula III to produce a compound of formula VIII:



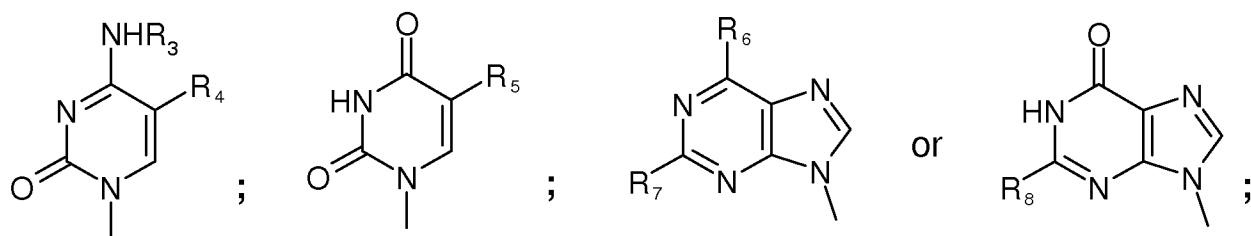
wherein B is purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue thereof;

- b) removing group R_{12} of said compound of formula VIII;
- c) recovering a compound of formula IX:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 20, wherein B is



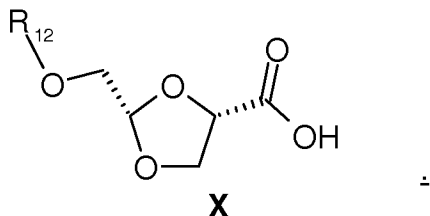
R₃ is H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ acyl and CO-R₉;

R₉ is H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R₄ and R₅ are each independently H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide or CF₃; and

R₆, R₇ and R₈ are each independently H, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide, amino, hydroxyl or C₃₋₆ cycloalkylamino.

22. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim ~~20~~ 12, further comprising converting said compound of formula III to a compound of formula IV and recovering said compound of formula X:



23. (Original): A process according to claim 12, wherein R₁₁ is C₁₋₁₂ alkyl and R₁₂ is CO-C₆₋₁₂ aryl.

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24. (Original): A process according to claim 12, wherein R_{11} is methyl and R_{12} is benzoyl.